

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 6, 2004, Examiner identified claims 1-8, 18-20, 22 and 23 as a first group of claims drawn to an apparatus for sawing a workpiece using a gang saw (Group I), and identified claims 9-17 and 21 as a second group of claims drawn to an apparatus for curve sawing having curve sawing station with a rotationally movable cutting tool (Group II), and required restriction of the claims to one of the two groups.

With the exception of claim 23 which, applicant respectfully submits belongs to Group II as depending from claim 9, the remaining claims of Group I, namely, claims 1-8, 18-20 and 22 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. The Group II claims, namely claims 9-17 and 21 and claim 23 remain for prosecution on the merits. Claim 9 has been amended to remove the word "curve" from the first line of the preamble, to substitute the word "workpiece" for the word "workplace" in line 5, to insert the phrase "at least" before the phrase "one of said chipping heads" in line 24, to insert the phrase "inwardly and" before the word "outwardly" in line 25, and to insert the phrase "so as" in front of the phrase "to recover" also in line 25. Claim 23 has been amended in line 3 to substitute the word "cutting" for the word "sawing".

New claims 24-34 are submitted herewith. Of those claims, new claim 24 depends from claim 9 and adds the limitation that the cutting station is a sawing station downstream of the chipping station and that the sawing station includes a gangsaw. New claims 25-33 depend directly or indirectly from new claim 24 and contain limitations corresponding to the limitations of claims 2-8, 19 and 20 respectively as originally filed. New claim 34 is an independent method claim modified from the form of method claim 18 and is originally filed so as to correspond in scope to independent apparatus claim 9.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR, SECTION 1.136

Applicant hereby requests a one month extension of time to respond to the Office Action to and through February 6, 2005.

Examiner is respectfully requested to now pass this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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